



Water Permits Division e-Newsletter

JULY 28, 2011

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A SUMMARY OF WATER PERMITTING NEWS & EVENTS

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

APRIL - JUNE 2011

PERMITS ISSUED

4/1/11—6/30/11

Individual Minors	67
Individual Majors	7
Sewage Sludge & Biosolids Use or Disposal	35

GENERAL PERMITS

Class I Sanitary	63
Class II Sanitary	11
Class III Sanitary	2
Class IV Sanitary	0
Large Construction	220
Sand & Gravel	2
Petroleum UST	3
Oil & Gas Exploration—Coastal	688
Oil & Gas Exploration—Territorial	9
Auto dealer	3
Hydrostatic Test	4
Exterior Vehicle Wash	37
Potable Water	0
Cement, Concrete & Asphalt	4
C&D Landfill	0
Groundwater	0
Dewater PST	0
Multi-Sector	213
Light Commercial	123

% CURRENT

MAJORS	97.0
MINORS/GENERALS	97.6

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS

ISSUED	87
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TMDLS

Public Noticed	5
Approved by EPA	8

ASSESSMENTS

Data Sets Evaluated	157
Solicitation of Views Letters Reviewed	198

Water Permits Division (WPD) Newsletter

DEQ Water Permits Division publishes this quarterly newsletter to provide the regulated community, citizens, and other interested parties with updates and information relevant to water permitting, water quality modeling/TMDLs, water quality certifications, and water quality standards and assessments. We welcome and solicit your comments, recommendations, and input. Please contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193 or Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3197.

Water Permits Division Staff Update

Sara Daigle has been hired as an Environmental Scientist assigned to the Water Quality Section and Bryan Hitt has been hired as an Engineer Intern assigned to the Water Quality Modeling/TMDL Section. Sandra Stephens and Karla Vidrine transferred to the WPD in April 2011. Bonnie Wascom and Shane Caldwell left the WPD to pursue new endeavors. Dugan Sabins retired from the DEQ on July 1, 2011. We all express our thanks to them and wish them good luck in their future endeavors.

LAG260000 Issuance Update

The Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit remanded the oil & gas territorial seas general permit LAG260000 to LDEQ on June 10, 2011 and instructed the LDEQ to modify the permit in a manner consistent with the opinion. The opinion may be found at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=245>. All NOIs received prior to May 26, 2011 were processed prior to the remand decision and granted authorization to discharge under the Master General Permit. Permittees with current permit coverage will continue to operate under the existing permit until notified by LDEQ of changes. For more information, contact Jennifer Sheppard at 225-219-3499.

Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force

The Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Hypoxia Task Force held a joint meeting August 2-4, 2011 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The meeting focused on accelerating progress in interests common to both groups, including reducing the size of the nation's largest hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico along the Louisiana shore. Opening and concurrent sessions included discussions on Natural Resources Damage Assessment, Restoration in the Gulf, the Gulf Report Card, Gulf Research opportunities and the Gulf Guardian Awards Reception & Ceremony will be held Wednesday evening. Priority issue teams on Water Quality, Habitat Conservation, Ecosystems, Nutrients, Resilience and Environmental Education, Urban Waters held working sessions Thursday, August 4. Contact Kris Pintado at 225-219-3218 or Stephanie Braden at 225-219-3187 for further information.

Antidegradation

DEQ is working with EPA Region 6 on implementation procedures for the state's Antidegradation Policy. DEQ submitted draft Antidegradation Implementation Procedures to EPA for technical review on April 27, 2011. The revision will be public noticed when the draft procedures have been technically approved by EPA. For more information contact Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

Water Permits Division
Attn: Melvin "Mitch" Mitchell or Yvonne Baker
PO Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313
Phone: 225-219-9371 / Fax: 225-219-3309
e-mail: _DEQ-WWWWATERPERMITS@LA.GOV,
mitch.mitchell@la.gov or yvonne.baker@la.gov

Nutrient Reduction Strategy

DEQ is taking a lead role in developing a Louisiana Nutrient Reduction Strategy addressing nutrient pollution in state water bodies. The strategy will be compatible with approaches developed by the National Hypoxia Task Force, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and the Louisiana Coastal Restoration Master Plan. The National Hypoxia Task Force brings state and federal agencies and local resources together to reduce the size of the Gulf hypoxic zone while protecting and restoring the natural resources of the Mississippi River Basin. DEQ is currently working on nutrient standards development, watershed monitoring and other projects that will aid in managing and reducing nutrient pollution. Contact Jan Boydston at 225-219-1208 or Kris Pintado at 225-219-3218 for further information.

MS4 Training Seminars

The WPD is participating in training seminars for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) in 2011. The training seminar is **FREE** for all attendees. For registration, go to the EnviroSchool Web site at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2601/Default.aspx>. The remaining schedule is as follows: Baton Rouge August 11, Monroe, August 24; Shreveport, August 25. DEQ is currently working to schedule a seminar in Jefferson Parish for September 2011.

General Permit Update

LAG480000 – The Master General Permit for Discharges from Light Commercial Facilities was reissued October 20, 2010. Facilities currently covered under the general permit should have reapplied by March 30, 2011. Coverage under the general permits for facilities that did not reapply and had outstanding fees were terminated as of June 30, 2011. The remaining facilities were referred to the regional offices for inspections. If you have any questions, contact Kim Corts at (225) 219-3208.

LAR050000 – The Master Multi-Sector General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities was issued May 4, 2011. All re-authorizations were completed in May 2011. If you have any questions, contact Kim Corts at (225) 219-3208.

New GOMA Contact

The new contact for the Gulf of Mexico Program/Alliance is Chris Piehler, 225-219-3611.



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LAG330000 Update/ Online Application

LAG330000- Master General Permit for Discharges from oil and gas exploration, development and production facilities located within coastal waters was issued on January 31, 2011. Dischargers who are currently permitted under the LPDES version of this permit that expired on November 30, 2010 are not required to submit a new NOI. Provided the applicability requirements of the reissued permit are met, these permitted dischargers are automatically covered. Permit conditions in the reissued permit are effective for these automatically authorized permittees three days after the postmark date of the notification of coverage. DEQ has reauthorized coverage under the general permit for approximately 700 facilities. A copy of the permit can be accessed and printed from DEQ's Internet website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=KRnppyp8K4c%3d&tabid=245>. DEQ launched the online application for the above permits (LAG330000) on July 1, 2010. It is for facilities operating inland of the territorial seas in waters of the state. The application allows them to bypass the initial paper submittal process. For more information go to the website: www.deq.louisiana.gov/onlinepermitapplications. Proposed facilities and proposed independent oil and gas wells desiring coverage must submit a completed NOI at least 14 calendar days prior to commencement of discharge. For questions regarding permit limitations and monitoring frequencies contact Jennifer Sheppard at 225-219-3499 or Valerie Powe at 225-219-3214.

Sewage Sludge Haulers and Disposal Sites

WPD has registered 208 haulers for 2011-2012. The Annual Sewage Sludge Reporting Forms were due February 19, 2011. **If you did not submit your reporting form, you will not be approved to haul sewage sludge for the 2011-2012 year. Registrations approved for 2010-2011 expired on June 30, 2011.** Renewal registration forms for the 2011-2012 year were due by May 1, 2011. No one can pump or haul sewage sludge until they have received approval from DEQ. A list of all approved sewage sludge disposal facilities and a separate list of all approved sewage sludge haulers is posted on the DEQ Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Internet site <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=2296>. Both lists will be updated every 60 days. For more information contact Eura DeHart at 225-219-3213 or Yvonne Baker at 225-219-3193.

Updates to Sewage Sludge Regulations

DEQ is currently updating sewage sludge regulations at LAC 33:IX Chapter 73. Updates will include clarifications of the regulations, reporting requirements, and department policies. The department is working to finalize the changes to the regulations. The changes will be published in the Louisiana Register mid August 2011. Facilities that discharge less than one million gallons per day of sanitary wastewater and do not receive domestic septage or portable toilet waste will now have until January 1, 2013 to apply for a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit. It is estimated there are more than 7,000 sanitary wastewater treatment works, in the state, subject to the deadline. For more information check the Biosolids website <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Default.aspx?tabid=2296> or contact Eura DeHart at 225-219-3213.

Performance Standard Indicators

The WPD exceeded the operational plan performance indicators for FY 2011. The water permitting performance indicator to take final action on water discharge permits was 86 percent and the year actual was 91.6 percent. The TMDL performance indicator to public notice water quality modeling documents within 80 days was 50 percent and the end of the year actual was 94.9 percent. The performance indicator for the percent of water data received that is evaluated for technical acceptability within 120 days was 95 percent and the end of year actual was 100 percent.

Pesticides Regulation / LPDES General Permit Update

The Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit granted EPA's request for a 2nd extension of the deadline for when permits will be required for pesticide discharges into U.S. waters from April 9, 2011 to October 31, 2011. Therefore, no pesticide permit coverage will be needed until October 31, 2011. The permit will incorporate existing pesticide control measures currently managed by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry and provide for reporting, inspection and compliance monitoring activities to be supervised by DEQ. The DEQ Pesticides General Permit is not for facilities already covered by a current Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit. Discharges and usage of pesticides by these facilities must be consistent with the issued and applicable LPDES permits, or Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act requirements, located on the container, and applicable Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry regulations governing pesticide usage. For more information to the WPD's website at: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/WaterPermits.aspx> or contact Bruce Fielding at 225-219-3231 or Melvin Mitchell at 225-219-3197.

DEQ's Water-Improving Assessment

In 2011, EPA Region 6 has approved 30 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) packages submitted by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. These 30 approved TMDLs are more than any previous entire year. A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet the water quality standards. TMDLs are a way to identify load reduction and other actions that can be taken to improve water quality. DEQ staff continues to assess the water quality of the streams, bayous and lakes throughout the state. By using this data, DEQ scientists can determine pollutant load allocations which will help maintain water quality in waterbodies that are not impaired, and improve those that are impaired. In addition, DEQ has public noticed 10 new TMDLs in 2011. DEQ has been conducting meetings to discuss TMDLs and the need for more regionalized treatment in heavily impacted areas. For more information please contact Chuck Berger at 225-219-3366.

2008 and 2010 Draft Integrated Reports

On April 6, 2011 EPA reached a decision on the 2008 Water Quality Integrated Report. EPA opened a public comment period through the Federal Register announcing this decision on April 13, 2011. The 2008 report is still not considered final until EPA formally announces their final decision at the conclusion of their process. As a result, the 2006 Water Quality Integrated Report is still the official report for permitting and other purposes. On January 13, 2011 DEQ submitted the 2010 Integrated Report to EPA Region 6. It is currently under review. For more information contact Al Hindrichs at 225-219-3212.

Updated Notice of Change Form

The Notice of Change Form (NOC-1) for Name/Owner/Operator Changes and/or Permit Transfers has been updated. Please see the following link: <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/DIVISIONS/PermitSupportServices/PermitApplicationAdministrativeReviewGroup.aspx>.

Dissolved Oxygen TMDLs

The most recent TMDL models in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin indicate reductions in permit limitation of greater than 75 percent in some areas DEQ has been conducting meetings around the state to discuss the dissolved oxygen TMDLs and the need for more regionalized treatment in heavily impacted areas. For more information please contact Chuck Berger at 225-219-3366.